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WHAT GOES THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR?

THE Washington Conference is a mile-post in history. The principles of good will and fair play undergird the new Four-Power Agreement. America sat at the head of the table. It was a chance to express our heart of justice and helpfulness toward weaker nations.

As a result, war clouds have been partially removed, gradual disarmament seems certain with a possible saving to the four contracting Powers of billions of dollars for the taxpayers. The four principles suggested by Mr. Root for China's protection and development were accepted. We must look forward with hopeful confidence in Japan as a friend and partner to eliminate the dangerous elements of her militarism and to progress toward true democracy and fair play in the Orient.

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JOE Mitchell Chapple wrote in the Christmas number of his National Magazine: "The 'world-thought' was never closer to the ideals of Christ than at 11.00 a. m. on November 12, 1921 (when the Conference opened) . . . The age-old dream of the Prophet Isaiah might have constituted the agenda of the Conference."

The editor of one of America's biggest daily papers recently wrote: "The church influence of this country is responsible for the great program announced by our government today. It is the greatest step toward permanent peace ever made by any nation. . . . The United States has certainly taken the moral leadership of the world. Tonight I am very happy. My country has taken the stand, if no other does."

THE OPEN DOOR IN CHINA

The Washington Conference centered around the problem of the "Open Door." Since John Hay set forth his Golden Rule policy for China, America has sought to protect and help China as a friendly nation. We are interested not only in the Standard Oil and Singer Sewing Machines or American products that go through that Open Door, but we as Christians are vastly more interested in what we have given to China of our Christian civilization.

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OUR missionaries have glorified those words, the "Open Door." Our American Board sent in early pioneers who wrote history in bright letters. S. Welles Williams, the scholar, as counsellor to the government of China moulded those early days. Our Dr. Peter Parker "opened China at the point of the lancet." Through our American Board, you friends in the churches, as partners with Christ, have sent through that Open Door 14 great hospitals, giving 85,000 treatments a year. You have 12,000 pupils in your schools in China and 15,000 church members worshipping the same God and serving the same Christ with us.

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BEHIND these modest figures are the vast results of the combined missionary efforts of all the Protestant churches.

Christian hospitals have entered in. More than a half million cases a year treated by well over 300 modern missionary doctors in their ministry of healing. The Rockefeller Foundation has just dedicated its new Medical School in Pekin with twenty-six buildings, erected at an expenditure of eight million dollars to date.

Christian teachers and schools have entered in. Throughout China 180,000 pupils in Protestant mission schools—pupils today, but leaders of their generation tomorrow. These missionaries are moulding character and implanting new ideals in those 180,000 "open doors."

The Gospel has entered in. Wherever this evangelistic work goes, there the spirit of Christ is touching the hearts of men. Over 313,000 church members have already been gathered into organized churches. The Bible is scattered across China and reforms for righteous living are multiplying.

Christian missions have thrown that Door wide, sometimes in heroism and in martyrdom, sometimes in the slow process of laying foundations, but today in the full sympathy and partnership of many leaders in China.

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THE OPEN DOOR IN JAPAN

WHAT influences brought Japan as one of the four Powers to the Conference Table as an equal and in fact the dominant factor in the Orient? Prince Tokugawa, son of the last Shogun and himself a bulwark of conservatism, said in the Church of the Covenant in Washington that Japan was ready to stand shoulder to shoulder with America in this new day of good will and co-operation. He reminded his audience that Japan's present place among the nations was in no small part the achievement of Christian America.

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'Ninety-three years ago," said the Prince, "there was held in Brookline, Massachusetts, a prayer meeting of women invoking the assistance of the Great Being to let Japan, then a hermit nation, see the wisdom of opening her door to America and general foreign intercourse. The sum of $800 was collected at this and other similar meetings and the money was sent to the American Board for the purpose of launching a Christian movement in Japan.

"That was ninety-three years ago. Today Japan has 200,000 members of the Protestant Church as well as Christian adherents numbering more than a million. There is no doubt that Christianity has already spread its roots wide and deep in Japanese soil."

The 23,000 members of our Congregational churches in Japan are only a small fraction of the increasing number who are rejoicing with us in the bright prospects of the day of Righteousness for the Orient.

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THE OPEN DOOR IS FOR YOU

OF what use is the guarantee of an Open Door unless we enter in with the message of Christ and the proofs of America's friendship? Paul was thankful for "an open and effectual door" of opportunity. It would have been tragic if he had not entered in. Is there any member or friend of our Congregational churches who is not proud of the work we are doing for China or who would refuse to help it on? A share of your American Board gifts for 1922 will go through the Open Door to build God's Kingdom in the Far East.

The work of the American Board and of the Woman's Boards must not be cut down. But to maintain them will require loyalty and sacrifice from the churches this year. Going through that Open Door with healing, with education, with the character of Christ will mean consecration and spiritual vision for every church in the denomination.

We cannot be certain about the political outcome of the Conference but that Open Door of spiritual challenge will ever swing wide before us.

"Behold, I have set before thee a door opened, which none can shut."

WHAT SHALL WE SEND THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR?

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